

LESSON 4
TOO BIG TO SPANK
1 CORINTHIANS 5:1—6:20



1 What kinds of disciplinary methods did your parents use on you when you were a child?

2 What disciplinary methods did they use when you were in high school?

3 What is the purpose of discipline?



Read 1 Corinthians 5:1—6:20, the chart “Church Discipline,” and the following notes:

- ☐ 5:1ff ☐ 5:5 ☐ 5:6 ☐ 5:10, 11 ☐ 5:12 ☐ 6:1–6 ☐ 6:9–11 ☐ 6:12, 13
☐ 6:13 ☐ 6:19, 20

4 What instructions did Paul give to resolve the immoral situation described in 1 Corinthians 5?

5 What is the purpose of church discipline (5:5)?

6 What does the phrase “cast this man out of the church and into Satan’s hands” mean (5:5)?

People sometimes think of church discipline as negative and unloving. But when applied as the Bible describes, it can be an instrument of healing and forgiveness. Paul taught the Corinthian believers to use discipline to keep the church pure and to bring wayward members back to Christ. We need such discipline because it is easy to gloss over sin in our life and in the church. Sin needs to be dealt with so it will not gain a foothold.



7 Why is purity such a vital issue for a Christian and for the church?

8 What role does church discipline have in the Christian's call to purity?

9 Since each Christian struggles with sin every day, when is church discipline appropriate?



10 How would you feel if someone approached you with a rebuke or a correction? What would be your response?

11 What stages of church discipline can all Christians be a part of? (See the chart "Church Discipline.")

12 How can being accountable to others help a person remain pure?

13 How is it possible to honor God with your body?

14 Who knows you well enough to hold you accountable for a lifestyle of purity? When could you talk to that person about a mutual agreement to pray for each other and be open with each other about purity issues?



15 Pray for your church to be a place that encourages and promotes biblical purity.

A Paul gave instructions on lawsuits between Christians (6:1–8). How should Christians settle their disputes? Why is it important for Christians not to go to court against one another? To what extent should a Christian go to avoid taking another Christian to court?

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B What does it mean that our body is the “temple of the Holy Spirit” (6:19)? How does this influence your behavior?

C What is so harmful about sexual immorality? How does our culture make it difficult for people to remain sexually pure? What can we do to counteract those influences?